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The East Greenwich School Committee announces a contract settlement with the East Greenwich Education Association

East Greenwich, RI- The new three-year contract covers the period of September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2019. The School Committee is grateful to the EGEA and its membership for working with us. Below are highlights of the new contract:

Salaries

The new contract contains a 0% raise in the first year; however, the healthcare buyback payment approximating \$121,000 scheduled for June 2017 shall be redistributed to all top step teachers as a one-time payment without being added to the base wages. Teachers below top step will still be receiving their statutorily provided step increases. In years two and three of the contract, all teachers will receive a 2% and 2.25% raise respectively, the cost for which will be offset by the elimination of the healthcare buyback and by the change in the health care plan.

Health Care

Teachers will remain on their current PPO plan through the remainder of the calendar year, but will transition to a Health Savings Account and High Deductible Plan starting in January of 2018. The school district will make a 50% contribution toward the annual deductible. Employees will contribute the other 50% through pre-tax payroll deductions and will be responsible for a 20% share of the costs of the health care plan. Health care costs that exceed the deductible will be covered 100%.

Class Size

In an effort to reduce class size at Cole Middle School, the EG School Committee and the EGEA agreed to establish a schedule committee to discuss and formulate

revised teacher and student schedules in time for the 2017-2018 school year. The schedule will continue to be based on a middle school model, but will involve teachers teaching five classes on most school days rather than four, with fewer students in each class and eliminating the need to pay for class overages.

Length of School Day

In the prior contract, the contractual school day for teachers at the elementary school level was six hours and thirty-five minutes while the contractual school day at the secondary level was six hours and forty-five minutes. The new contract aligns the length of the contractual school day across all six schools at six hours and forty-five minutes, adding ten minutes to the contractual school day for teachers at the elementary school level.

Advisories

The EG School Committee and the EGEA agreed to create an Advisory Study Commission charged with making recommendations within six months of the ratification of the contract to revise and/or restructure the current advisory program at the middle and high school for the purpose of meeting RIDE regulatory requirements more effectively.

The final copy of the agreement will be available on the EGSD website.

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